

Waldringfield Fairway Committee Report for Annual Parish Meeting 2025

Waldringfield Fairway Committee was formed in 1938 to manage moorings at Waldringfield and we hold the Crown Estate lease of the river bed from Methersgate Quay to Early Creek. The committee comprises two representatives of the Parish Council, four from the Sailing Club, a riparian landowner and two local businesses. Our main responsibilities are:

- To pay the annual rent to The Crown Estates
- To allocate mooring sites and collect licence fees
- To maintain a navigable fairway
- To install and maintain navigation marks

The number of moorings increased rapidly until the 1970s when it was decided that the number should be limited to about 220. The committee also decided to impose a maximum length of 36 ft for moored craft. However, the majority of our moorings are only suitable for boats of 20 ft or shorter. We carry out an annual count to ensure these limits are adhered to. There is also an annual inspection by Trinity House to ensure our ten navigation marks are “in good and efficient order”.

Although we have a waiting list, village residents are given priority when applying for moorings. This year ten moorings re-allocated and two more are yet to be assigned. In most years we issue around 180 dinghy licences to mooring holders and village residents. We are aware that there is some concern over the number of dinghies on the beach, although this number has fallen over recent years. In response to requests from residents and beach users, the Committee has agreed to restrict dinghy permits to the period from 1st March until 30th November.

As well as his other duties, Tony (our Harbourmaster) collects donations from visiting yachts in lieu of mooring fees. This is all donated to charity and last year £750 was divided between the Sea Change Sailing Trust, the RNLi and the Deben Marine Centre.

Last year we received an application from an individual wishing to set up an oyster cultivation enterprise close to Shottisham Creek. We rejected this proposal as it would have been likely to interfere with sailing on the river.

Our annual public meeting this year was arranged for 27th March but was abandoned due to lack of interest from the public.

For further information, please contact the WFC secretary, John Smith, on 01473 736257 or have a look at our information on the WSC web site waldringfieldsc.com/waldringfield-moorings .